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CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS  
CO-CHAIR

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0307**

WEBSITE: <http://grijalva.house.gov/>

1511 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone (202) 225-2435 | Fax (202) 225-1541

101 W. Irvington Rd., BLDG. 4  
Tucson, AZ 85714  
Phone (520) 622-6788 | Fax (520) 622-0198

146 N. State Ave.  
P.O. Box 4105  
Somerton, AZ 85350  
Phone (928) 343-7933 | Fax (928) 343-7949

1412 N. Central Ave., Suite B  
Avondale, AZ 85323  
Phone (623) 536-3388 | Fax (623) 535-7479

FACEBOOK: [Facebook.com/Rep.Grijalva](https://www.facebook.com/Rep.Grijalva)  
TWITTER: [Twitter.com/RepRaulGrijalva](https://twitter.com/RepRaulGrijalva)  
INSTAGRAM: [Instagram.com/RepRaulGrijalva](https://www.instagram.com/RepRaulGrijalva)

August 1, 2018

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin  
Secretary, Department of Treasury  
Chair, Task Force on the United States Postal Service  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

As you evaluate the operations and financing for the United States Postal Service (USPS) and develop recommendations for reforms, I urge you to use existing examples of changes to inform your work. Evidence has shown that consolidations of processing centers have caused unnecessary delays of mail, loss of jobs, and provided no financial benefits to USPS. Lack of consideration for population growth and a rush towards privatization may also harm vital services to Americans.

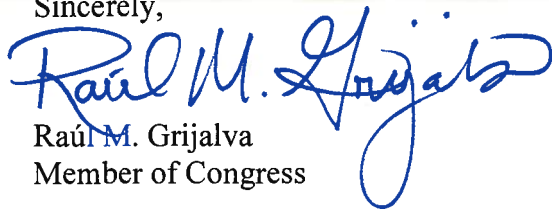
Postal delays are not merely a nuisance — they can have harmful health impacts and hamper businesses' most fundamental operations, such as meeting their payroll. For example, the partial consolidation of Tucson Cherrybell facility, in my district, has already harmed individuals, businesses, and mailers in the community with delivery delays. A 2015 Tucson city survey found that 84 percent of individuals and 86 percent of businesses reported a noticeable delay in their mail delivery services since the first phase of consolidation. Respondents reported waiting additional days for medicines, delays in Veterans benefits and medications and delays in receipts and payments for regular business transactions.

I am concerned that the USPS consolidations fail to adequately account for population growth. While population does not necessarily correlate to mail volume, it would be irresponsible to assume maintenance of this trend in an ever changing economy. Closing postal facilities in high-growth localities, like Tucson, threatens jobs and undermines timely delivery in areas that need stable mail delivery for economic growth. Our goal should be to catalyze economic development, not stunt it in the fastest growing population centers in the country. That is why I recently introduced the *Defending Quality Postal Delivery for the Future Act*, a bill to prohibit USPS from closing or consolidating any post office or other postal facility that is located in a ZIP code that has a high rate of population growth.

As with the consolidations, haphazard changes, such as a push towards privatization, will undermine the basic services of our society. In our present economy, where online shopping is becoming increasingly dominant, it would be irresponsible not to utilize the USPS's experience

and knowledge to provide expanded services. Reducing standards, careless consolidations, and cutting services are all actions that will cripple USPS's ability to be an institution that effectively operates in a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "R" and "G".

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

cc: White House Task Force on the United States Postal Service Members